

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman
Tsunetaro Miyakoda

*Published by the Commission on Public Relations
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

Editors:
Kaname Tsukahara
William C. Weiss

CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 24-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 175 November 1, 1960

In These Pages

First Japanese to go to Korea Since End of War	1
General Assembly of the Kyodan Held October 25 - 28	3
Dr. Ken Ishihara Honored at Cultural Day Observance	3
Miss Gladys Spencer, Missionary in Aomori Dies at Age of 63	3

FIRST JAPANESE TO GO TO KOREA SINCE END OF WAR

This summer two students and a pastor attended an International Work Camp in Korea. They were Fujiya Kawashima and Noriko Hiramoto of ICU and Rev. Shinobu Saito of Kamata Church. Mr. Saito commented on the warm reception they received in Korea. Many newspaper men and camera men were at the airport to cover their arrival. The minister of welfare, the governor and the police chief came to visit them and take them sightseeing. He was impressed by the enthusiasm of the Koreans in their construction for the future and in their contributions to church building. One church had a library and dormitory which had been built with the largest proportion coming from the people themselves. He was also deeply impressed by the fact that many of the laymen and leaders who are very active in the churches came from North Korea where they were persecuted and fled south for religious freedom. (Kyoshi no Tomo, October 1960)

The following is a translation from Kyokai Seinen, November 1960, quoted in full. It was written by Noriko Hiramoto of ICU.

This summer, as one of the first Japanese who went to Korea after the war, I had fellowship with Korean students in our Lord through the International Ecumenical Work Camp in Korea. In May I received an invitation to the 9th Ecumenical Work Camp from the Korean Christian Council through the Youth Commission of the United Church of Christ in Japan. The Youth Commission thought it might

be impossible to get visas for Korea because of the political situation between the two countries, but at last we obtained them through the devoted efforts of the Korean Christians. When I received the wonderful news, I thanked God that the efforts in the Lord are certainly granted and that we are one in the name of Jesus Christ, although there are no friendly relations between our two countries.

The Ecumenical Work Camp, sponsored by the Korean Christian Council and the Health and Welfare Ministry, was held at Incheon, a small village located about 35 miles south of Seoul, from August 5th to the 26th. The campers worked on a new resettlement project, a social center for Korean refugees. Campers were from the United States, India, Okinawa, Korea and Japan, 35 people in all. Most of them were students, but a pastor, a medical doctor, a nurse and some missionaries were included in the group. Although we came from different countries, the bonds between each camper were close. Our day began with morning worship at 6 o'clock and finished with a prayer meeting at 10 o'clock in the evening. Every day passed with thanks and encouragement.

My first impression of Korean students was that they were much more vivid and cheerful and full of hope and self-confidence than I had expected. Their fight and energy must have come from the strong consciousness and self-confidence which was the result of the successful April Revolution, and the building of the new government with their own hands. The students told us what they did in the Revolution, in the new life movement to exile foreign manufacturing, and in taking an interest in the tuition fee reduction movement. Their eyes and way of talking were full of hope. On the other hand, their hate and fear of Communism is so strong that their hope for unity of North and South Korea is actually impossible. The experience under the Japanese occupation for 15 years makes them consider the Japanese demand for the return of Okinawa as a manifestation of an occupation consciousness that still holds.

Korean students, who have been educated since the war and don't know the Japanese language, asked me to teach them Japanese. I feel that they, more than others, know the necessity of reconciliation between Korea and Japan in the scientific, economic and academic fields; but they seem to feel difficulties in the present society and have a faint shadow of uneasiness about their future. They have many problems to think about, such as the conscription system and the employment problem.

I found many young people in the church, but I heard there are a lot of young people who were baptized only to have social recognition because Christians are highly evaluated in Korea. Most of the Christian campers know that they should be the ones to reconcile with Japan because they have already been reconciled with the Lord. They know their responsibility for reconciliation between Korea and Japan. We three Japanese delegates strongly felt our great mission.

I feel that it was very meaningful and significant that our Japanese delegates had fellowship in the Lord with those Korean

students who are the support and driving force of future Korea. I pray that God will multiply much fruit from the little seed which I found in Korea. I also want to thank the people of the Kyodan, especially the Youth Commission, who made it possible for me to participate in this wonderful camp.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE KYODAN HELD OCTOBER 25 - 28

The 11th General Assembly of the United Church of Christ in Japan was held at Fujimicho Church in Tokyo. The opening worship service was led by Rev. Isamu Omura, vice-moderator. The sermon was given by the moderator, Rev. Keikichi Shirai, who has been elected moderator again. Mr. Omura was re-elected vice-moderator.

Twenty-seven people were elected to the Executive Committee which is composed of 14 ministers and 13 laymen. Among some of the well-known laymen elected are: Mr. Tokutero Kitamura, Mr. Tamotsu Hasegawa and Mr. Motojiro Sugiyama, who are members of the former Diet now running for re-election, Professor Ryoichi Masaki and Professor Mikio Sumiya of Tokyo University.

This year the four hundred official delegates were asked to attend one of three sections on either evangelism, finances or administration to consider the reports before they were presented on the floor of the Assembly for consideration. We will report the items covered at the Assembly in the next issue.

DR. KEN ISHIHARA HONORED AT CULTURAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Dr. Ishihara, former president of Tokyo Women's College, now at Aoyama Gakuin University received a commemoration from the government for his contribution to the development of the study of Christianity. He graduated from Tokyo University about 55 years ago. After serving at the University for a while as an associate professor, he went to Tohoku University and about 20 years ago became president of Tokyo Women's College. He is an authority on the history of Christianity and the history of Christian thought. He has written books on the study of Christianity in the Middle Ages and on the theology of Schleiermacher.

Four years ago the late Mr. Akira Ebisawa received the same award.

MISS GLADYS SPENCER, MISSIONARY IN AOMORI DIES AT AGE OF 63

Miss Spencer of the Episcopal Church, had been a missionary in Aomori, the Tohoku Diocese, for over thirty years. She passed away on October 11 after an illness of some months. The funeral services were held in the Aomori Church and were presided over by the Rt. Rev. Timothy Nakamura, Bishop of the Diocese and Rev. Samuel K. Uematsu, rector of St. Andrew's Church, Aomori. Over 500 people attended the service.

She was known for her work with children. Over 2,000 children passed through the kindergartens she started and were personally known by her. She formed the children into associations known as

"Associations of Hope" - hoping that they might grow into good citizens and if possible good Christians. St. Andrew's Church which is now self-supporting, is made up of many of the former members of the kindergartens.

She also used to regularly visit the leprosarium near Aomori and rescue the children born to lepers, quietly placing them in situations where their background would not be known. They are now leading useful and normal lives.

During the war she was imprisoned in the Philippines but because of her understanding of Japanese and the language she was able to be of great help to the other prisoners. The commandant of the prison became her friend and visited her after the war.

In 1947 she returned to Aomori to resume her work and was happy to discover that the church members had carefully preserved her belongings during the war. She would have liked to finish a few more things, but she realized that the end had come and accepted it as an order from God whose orders she had always obeyed.

